

**To:** Bent, Sara[Bent.Sara@epa.gov]; Hastings, Janis[Hastings.Janis@epa.gov]  
**From:** McArthur, Lisa  
**Sent:** Wed 4/6/2016 5:49:11 PM  
**Subject:** RPU Hot Topic: PCBs in Schools

## **PCBs in schools making national news**

This week the issue of PCBs in schools has hit the national news in a New York Times article as well as CBS This Morning national broadcast. America Unites For Kids has sued the Santa Monica School Board to require removal of all PCB caulking and testing to identify all sources of PCBs after high levels of PCBs were identified in some window caulking at the school several years ago. The TSCA Statute does not require testing to identify sources, but does require removal once sources are identified.

*Regional relevancy:* In March, a PCB inspector from R5, at our request, investigated a school in Monroe, WA in response to repeated tips and complaints regarding leaking PCB light ballasts. While final results are not yet in, Manchester lab has indicated the presence of PCBs in samples above regulated limits. Teachers have previously questioned whether or not the school should also investigate caulking at the school. There is also potential that this national attention to the issue, coupled with ongoing investigation at the local school, could elevate and expand the scope of the PCB investigation and response in Monroe. Contact Lisa McArthur x1814 and Michelle Mullin, x 3-1616

### **CBS Broadcast:**

[http://www.cbs.com/shows/cbs\\_this\\_morning/video/t9ksXTMKhKbB4idKNWKW8GUSH\\_InOLK/uproar-over-california-school-handling-of-toxic-chemicals/](http://www.cbs.com/shows/cbs_this_morning/video/t9ksXTMKhKbB4idKNWKW8GUSH_InOLK/uproar-over-california-school-handling-of-toxic-chemicals/)

### **New York Times article:**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/05/us/an-exclusivity-malibu-could-do-without-pcbs.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/05/us/an-exclusivity-malibu-could-do-without-pcbs.html?_r=0)

Lisa McArthur

RCRA Program Unit Manager

Office of Air, Waste and Toxics

EPA Region 10

(206) 553-1814

mcArthur.lisa@epa.gov

**Michelle Mullin**

PCB Coordinator

US EPA Region 10

1200 6th Avenue | Suite 900 | AWT-150

**NOTE NEW MAILING ADDRESS**

Seattle, WA 98101

[mullin.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:mullin.michelle@epa.gov)

206-553-1616

[www.epa.gov/region10/pcb.html](http://www.epa.gov/region10/pcb.html)